A TERRIBLE SECRET

The Curse of the M. elands.

BY LEON LEWIS.

CHAPTER VIII.



on awakening early the followtirely emancipatfrom the "phantoms" which had dis-turbed his latest

made a thorough survey of the premises without vering any traces of an intrusion. His first proceeding after breakfast was to replace the glass he had broken and nall up the three signs he had suppressed and then he decided to saunter to town and boldly ask for his sister-in-

To his intense satisfaction, he secured a letter and a parcel of newspapers, all bearing the postmark of Calcutta.

"They're from Colonel Ridley, no doubt!" was the mental ejaculation with which he set about retracing his steps to The Elms. "I wonder what they coa-

He found upon closer examination that the newspapers could be readily slipped out of their wrapper, and he was soon busily absorbed in their perusal as

he continued his course homeward.
"From the Colonel, sure enough!" he ejaculated, after a few rapid glances. "He's coming back to America immediately! Here are marked articles expressing the regret of the press and public at his retirement from business and his departure from the country!"

He "skimmed" the articles in question with an intense interest, at times pausing in his walk and standing as motion-less as a statue with audible comments and elaculations.

"I don't see just when he's coming nor how," he at length ejaculated, as he re-turned the newpapers to their wrapper and set out at a high pace for The Elms. "Evidently that is a matter he has taken care to keep to himself, or else he has ex-pressed his intentions only in this letter to his sister. What a pity it is that I have never met the Colonel. He might turn up here at any moment and I shouldn't know him from Adam."

By the time he had reached the seclusion of The Elms he had become very curious concerning the contents of the Colonel's letter, and had resolved to open It and learn its contents.

"Fortunately there is no big seal in the way," he muttered, after turning the epistle over and over a dozen times, and trying in vain to pry into it. "With the aid of a little steam from the cozzle of a tea kettle I shall be able to manage it in such a way as to harm neither the letter nor the envelope. It will not be the first one. Later, after I've read it, I'll seal it up again, and my sister-in-law will be none the wiser for the liberties I've taken."

The envelope was soon open and the letter in his hands. It was dated as postmarked and read as follows: "DEAR SISTER AND NIECE: I am coming

home immediately. The grand ques bas been how to bring my money, w amounts to a triffe over two millions of lars, exclusive of the valuables conta in six large chests, many of which are presents for you. You will remember that the one rule and watchword of my life has been never to exchange a certainty for an un-certainty, and this principle commands me to bring my money in ready cash instead of taking anybody's letters of credit or other taking anybody's letters of creation of other commercial paper. I have decided to bring with me Agnus Hillington, who has been my confidential bookkeeper for six years past. He is such a trustworthy young man, and I have become so dependent upon him, that I seldom take the least step without his knowledge. By his thoughtful action I have converted my fortune into paper have converted my fortune into paper money, principally English, French and American, and this measure has been so well managed by Agnus that no one here has received a hint of it. All this ready cash has been secured in a neat little solid sole leather trunk, with which Agnus and I start for home in the F. & O, steamer of start for home in the F. & O. steamer of next Saturday. Your leving brother and uncle.

BARTON RIDLEY.

P. S.—We shall not take the P. & O.

after all! At the last minute, after our passage was engaged, Agnus discovered that my intentions had become known to a score of the worst villains in Calcutta, and that they had engaged steerage passage with the evident design of robbing me. Agnus learned that they were determined to scuttle the ship or set it afre if necessary to carry their point. At his suggestion I have purchased a splendid ocean-going schooner-yacht, the Albatross, which bescooner-yacht, the Albatross, which belonged to the late Viceroy, and am coming home in my own vessel. We shall sall to-morrow late at night, so as to slip off unseen, and I will write you next from Cape Town, South Africa. I close by expressing the hope that Jessie is still heart-free, as I am anxious to see Agnus make a favorable Impression upon her. I inclose his photo-

P. S. No. 2.—I may also bring some of my faithful servants.

The reading of this extraordinary epistle left such a disagreeable impression upon the mind of Radd Moreland that he stened to read it again, with many an unfavorable comment and many an uneasy movement in his chair.

It's unmistakably the Colonel's handwriting," he ejaculated, "although I have not seen a specimen of it before for many a long year. But I don't like it! There's too much of that confidential bookkeeper in it-too much Agnus Hil

He proceeded to scan critically the photograph which had dropped out of

It was that of a young man of thirty years, with very regular features and a business-like air, but the impression it left upon Radd's mind was even more unfavorable than that which had been produced by the letter. While Agnus Hillington was certainly a handsome man, his beauty had many a sinister line and there was such a lack of soul in the picture that Radd instantly decided it as a mere mask of an essentially deep and treacherous nature.

the photograph and took up the letter for a third perusal. "I wonder the Colonel can trust such a countenance as that so implicitly! I'd as soon trust a hungry dog with my dinner!"

His comments were interrupted by the sound of wheels on the drive near the house, and he hastened to look cautiously from the nearest window.

"Great Scott! there's the thug now!" he cried in trepressible amazement.

he cried, in irrepressible amazement. "Alone, too! Here's a state of things!" He hastened to steady his nerves with half a pint of Yquelli, with a lively ap-prehension that another touch of the tremens was threatened, and then he took his way to the front door which he threw wide open just as a carriage from the station rolled up to the steps.

"This is Mrs. Moreland's, str." an-nounced the driver, as he slipped from his box and opened the deor of the ve-Evidently, sir, you are ex-

There could be no mistake about the identity of the passenger, after another glance at him, as he sprang lightly out

of the caraiage. He was the original of the photograph inclosed in the Colonel's letter from Cal-

A single instant only Radd hesitated, assuring himself what was his best line of conduct in this emergency, and then he advanced rapidly to meet the newcomer, extending his hand and forcing a

mile to his features.
"I am sorry, Mr. Hillington," he said,
"that Mrs. Moreland and her daughter are not here at the moment to welcome you in person, but I take great pleasure in receiving you in their stead. I am Radd Moreland, Mrs. Moreland's brother-n-law, and Miss Jessie's uncle."

Mr. Hillington smiled his thanks, showing a double row of faultless teeth, as he shook the hand offered him, but did not speak until he had dismissed the carriage and Radd had assisted him in tarrying into the wide hall of The Elms several pieces of baggage, which in-luded a couple of handsome tin-covered

"You surprised me, Mr. Moreland, by calling me by name at sight," then 'said the newcomer, as Radd closed the door; and I am curious to know how you were aware of my identity."
"Wary as a thug, too," thought Radd,

"and also as suspicious."
But he hastened to reply:
"Oh, we have the Colonel's letters, Mr.
Hillington, and we also have your photograph, which the Colonel inclosed for

"Ah. that's it," returned Hillington, with a barely perceptible accent of relief, as he followed Radd to the sitting-room. "And so the ladies are absent?"

"For a few days—yes, sir!"
Hillington looked relieved at the intelligence. He even sighed audibly, as if dismissing some grave preoccupation caused by the thought or expectation of

meeting the mother and daughter.
"The Colonel's letter has only just reached me," added Radd, motioning the newcomer to a chair, "and consequently my niece and her mother are not yet advised of his proposed advent. They have gone to a summer retreat we have down the lake, but I can readily reach them by mail or telegraph, or I can take you

"All in due time, Mr. Moreland," re-turned Hillington, with another involun-tary sigh of relief. "For the moment I am not sorry that the ladies are absent, now that you are, sir, to receive me in their stead, as it will be much easier for me to make known my bad business to you than it would be to break the same

"Ah! there are bad news, then?" exclaimed Radd with a sudden flush of interest and expectancy. "I suspected as much, Mr. Hillington, from the moment I set eyes on you, for the simple reason that you arrived here alone. The Col-

"Yes, the Colonel is in trouble," declared Hillington, in a barely audible tone, and with wary glances around. "By the way, Mr. Moreland, are we

"Quite, sir, quite," replied Radd, although it cost him something to admit the fact, so sinister was the impression the confidential bookkeeper had already made upon him. "Even the chambermaid and housekeeper are absent, as they have preceded the ladies to our island retreat!"

"Then I may come to the facts without the least hesitation or circumlocution," declared Hillington, looking re-lieved at the information imparted to him. "In a word, Mr. Moreland, the Colonel is dead!"

The announcement not only startled Radd, but he could not help showing his agitation as he thought of the far-reaching consequences such a fact must neces sarily have upon even his own fortunes and relations.

"And not only dead, but wickedly and barbarously murdered!" added Hilling-ton, with on air which might have been modeled upon that of a parrot repeating a lesson, and which certainly lacked every element of sympathy and sorrow. 'So suddenly and strangely murdered that we did not even have the satisfaction of securing his body for burial!" It is doubtful if Radd Moreland, in all his strange and varying experiences, had ever received such a shock as was given

him by these revelations. He dropped into a chair with barely life enough to motion the visitor anew to do likewise, and sat staring at his "thug" as wildly as he had so recently stared at Tippoo and the Bengalese we

man and their mysterious master. "I-I suppose those terrible outcasts of Calcutta are the murderers of the Colonel?" he cried, after gasping for

"What outcasts?" returned Agnus Hillington quickly, with a glance as sharp as his voice.

"Those to whom the Colonel referred in his last letter from Calcutta!" "Ah, have you that letter handy? And

can I see it? "Certainly." "I can tell you whether it is the last the Colonel wrote or not."

"Of course, sir. Radd produced the letter in question and Agnus Hillington read it rapidly but carefully, with the air of fixing every word of it in his memory. "Yes, that is the last letter the Colonel

ever wrote to his sister," he declared, as he folded it and handed it back to Radd. "Take good care of it, Mr. Moreland! Your sister-in-law would not have it lost "I can quite understand how she will prize it, Mr. Hillington," returned Radd,

as he stowed the letter and photograph away in an inner pocket, with a very thoughtful and speculative air. "I will take good care to hand it to her in per-"That's right, sir," assured the visitor.

and treacherous nature.

"Why, the fellow's as deadly as a thug!" e-claimed Radd, as he dropped "I particularly want that letter to reach your sister-in-law's hands safely, as it is the first great link of evidence in the "Was an account of the tragedy telegraphed in every direction?"

chain of events which have resulted in the Colonel's untimely death!"

He shuffed vigorously two or three from one of his vest pockets, and which instantly diffused a pungent and restor-ative odor throughout the apartment,

and then resumed:
"As you have so readily and intelligently surmised, my dear Mr. Moreland, those 'outlaws of Calcutta' are indeed the authors of the Colonel's murder. He reached Cape Town in due course, after a very remarkable run, and came to anchor in Table Bay. The hour of our arrival was rather late—almost mid-night, in fact—and the Colonel accordingly decided not to go ashore or let any one else do so until the following morn-

Radd nodded breathlessly, to signify that he was not losing a word of the

"How can I adequately describe what followed," continued Hillington, with a sigh, resorting again to his salts. "We had not been at our anchorage half an hour when we were suddenly boarded and assailed by a swarm of assassins. Worst calamity of all, we discovered that several of these reprobates had smuggled themselves into our crew. Taken by surprise, betrayed, outmatched and overpowered, what could we do? We were simply annihilated! The Colonel was one of the first to be murdered. He fell just as I was stricken down senseless at his feet, and we were thrown overboard

Radd groaned in horror. "Fortunately the cold water revived me, and I struck out for the shore, seeme, and I struck out for the shore, seeing that the yacht was already in the hands of the pirates. I dare say you have read enough to be aware of the configuration of Table Bay. We had anchored well out toward Robbins' Island, the wind being northwest and blustering, so as to be in a position to pull out in case it came on to blow. It was owing to our being anchored so far out that our battle was not overheard in Cape Town, and it was owing to the direction of the wind that I was able, after an nour's desperate swim, to reach the shore as the sole survivor of our people."

"As the sole survivor!" repeated Radd

Moreland. "How very, very singular!"
"Oh, not at all! Those cut-throats who had smuggled themselves aboard the yacht as seamen instantly turned, you see, on all who stood by the Colonel, including myself. It was not a fight, but

"But how came the pirates in Cape Town ahead of you?" pursued Radd.
"How? They had stolen one of the
fastest steamers in Calcutta, and pursued us, arriving near Cape Town three days ahead of us, so that they were looking for us at the moment of our arrival."

"You say they waited for you near Cape Town, Mr Hillington. Didn't they anchor in Table Bay?"

"And those ships which were anchored in Table Bay at the moment of the fight, did they not come to the rescue or hear or see anything?"

The East Indian stirred uneasily, while a strange flash invaded his face.

"Very, very few ships were in port," he then said, with barely visible hesitancy, and none of them sent assistance

in time to be of the least use to us, it was all so sudden—such a startling surprise!"

"And the Colonel's yacht, sir?"

"The pirates carried it off with them," narrated Hillington, "and with it went every dollar of the Colonel's two millions, and also those six valuable trunks filled with costly presents and personal effects he was bringing home with him! Could any disaster be more sweeping, my dear Mr. Moreland? To lose life, fortune and ship at one fell swoop-how dreadful! Of ourse I raised the town, after reaching the shore, and a prolonged search was made for the pirates, as also for the Colonel's body, but in vain!"

Once more the East Indian resorted energetically to his bottle of salts, while shivered in wondering amaze at these horrifying revelations.

> CHAPTER IX. TWO OF A KIND.



THE brief silence hat succeeded, as the two men struggled with their excitement, was broken by one of those undefined sounds which had previous ly attracted Radd's notice, as also the attention of Mrs. Moreland and

Jessie. "What's that?" Ho demanded Hilling-ton, suddenly suspending the motion of the hand that held his bottle of salts.

"We're overrun by rats, sir." "But what I heard sounded like human footsteps!" insisted Hillington nervously.

"That's some sudden scampering of the rodents. I've heard them repeatedly. The house is one of the oldest structures built on these shores, as you may have noticed-very old and somewhat dilapidated, it having been left uninhabited

"Are you quite sure there are no human ears near us, other than our own?" continued Hillington, as he fixed his gaze upon a certain point of one of the walls of the apartment.

"Sure? Of course I am. Those sounds are caused by rats, and by nothing else! Radd spoke very decidedly, and without the least intention of saying anything about his unfortunate habit of drinking and its consequent phantoms-including "Mr. Chapman"-for the simple reason that he had already conceived the project of making an ally of this young man from India and was anxious to stand well

with him. Much to Radd's joy-for he was eager to hear more of the tragic fate of Colonel Barton Ridley-the explanation he had given was instantly accepted, doubtless because the sounds within the wall had ceased, and Hillington resumed his narrative as follows:

was necessary and natural, I re mained in Cape Town several days, offering rewards and making every effort to get track of the outlaws, but they did not even enter port, and it is only reasonable to presume that they sailed with their booty within a few minutes of their victory for some distant piratical haunt in the China Sea or the Indian Ocean." "So that not a trace of them reached

you?"
"Not a trace, sir."

Radd smiled a little stronger. "I suppose the authorities at Cape

Town gave you every possible assist-ance?" he queried, watching Hillington closely, but without letting him detect the fact. "Certainly; every possible assistance."

"It was." "And published all over the world?"
"No doubt, sir. The police authorities

and regular press agents would have taken good care of that point." "Strange that no American paper has mentioned the matter, so far as I am aware," exclaimed Radd. "Was there a report in the Cape Town papers?"

"Yes, sir; full details. I furnished them myself:"

them myself:"
Again Radd smiled as singularly as guardedly, while Hillington uttered a sigh of relief, vigorously wiping a flood of perspiration from his face and fore-head, which had become quite flushed under Radd's leading questions.

under Radd's leading questions.

"I suppose handbills were printed and posted, offering a reward for the assassins?" was Radd's next question.

"Yes, sir," replied Hillington. "We even sent them away in the mails by the thousand to all parts of the world!"

"How large was the powered offered?"

"How large was the reward offered?"
"Five thousand pounds, sir!"
"Indeed? So much?" exclaimed Radd,
with unmistakable interest. "Was this your individual offer, or that of the police authorities of Cape Town, or both

"It was my individual offer!" replied Hillington, his flush deepening, and a shade of anger and annoyance beginning to appear in his bearing. "I wonder such an offer did not make

the circuit of the globe!" declared Radd, "Strange we are all still in ignorance of it on this side of the ocean! But how did you expect to pay such a large re-ward in case it should be claimed?" "Why, out of the Colonel's millions.

"Why, out of the Colonel's millions.
Naturally, the bulk of the reward was offered for the return of the money!"

"And the balance? How would you have paid that—if I am not tiring you too much with all these questions?"

"Out of my own money, sir—my savings for the last ten years."

"Ah, you have made yourself com-

"Ah, you have made yourself com-fortable, have you, in the service of the

"Well, to some extent, Mr. Moreland," answered the newcomer. "The Colonel has been paying me five hundred pounds a year. Being a single man, I have saved the bulk of my salary, and have invested it to excellent advantage. A small bequest was left me by an uncle, and I took good care of that. I have also bought and sold several pieces of real estate advantageously. In short, I have made my way upwards, and am worth about \$50,000."

"Quite a handsome sum for a man of your age. Mr. Hillington," remarked Radd, speaking as carelessly as if he handled the amount named every day. "None of the rewards offered were claimed, however?"

"No, sir."
Radd cleared his throat vigorously at this point, as if all he had said previously had been paving the way to a more rigid investigation.

"Have you any documents referring to this great tragedy, Mr. Hillington?" he suddenly asked. "Any handbills, the

Cape Town papers, or what not?"
"Oceans of them, sir—oceans! One of
my trunks is partly filled with them.
But why do you ask, Mr. Moreland?"
"In your interest, simply," and Radd
fixed such a glance upon the confidential bookkeeper as a hunter fixes upon a reptile he is about to destroy. "You have come here with a very strange story, which you will soon have occasion to tell to my sister-in-law and niece-to a couple of ladies, I warn you, as sharp as the teeth of one of your East-Indian tigers! Please bear in mind that you are not dealing with two foolish old women who are ready to believe the first lie you

may choose to invent." "Lie?" interrupted Hillington, turning pale with anger, as he sprang to his feet.

"Do you mean to say I am lying?"
"Certainly not," replied Radd. "Sit down, Mr. Hillington, and don't be so ready to take offense where none is intended. I am merely warning you that you must gather up all your documents, proofs, or whatever may bear upon the fate which has overtaken your late employer, and be ready to offer due confirmation of all you say, which of course will cover the whole period subsequent to your departure from Calcutta!"

"Ah, yes-thank you-I comprehend," returned Hillington, who had grown deidedly nervous, as he resumed his seat. "I will act upon your suggestion and be

"Otherwise," insinuated Radd, with that confidential air he knew so well how to assume, "the tales you tell may fall under suspicion. For instance, no one in Cape Town knows any more about the outlaws from Calcutta, I suppose, than if they had never existed?"

"Well, I suppose not," answered Hillington, "seeing that they have not been 'In other terms, you are the sole au-

thority for all that relates to the Colonel's death. All the Cape Town people know of the tremendous battle in Table Bay is what you have told them! How unfortunate that you are the sole survivor of the schooner-yacht in which Colonel sailed from Calcutta! What a dreadful misfortune it is that you do not have a single witness to confirm your

Agnus Hillington sat as if paralyzed, with a glare in his eyes like that of a hunted beast of prey.

"But you were saying you spent several days in Cape Town, Mr. Hillington,' continued Radd, without seeming to notice the confusion of the newcomer.

"About how many?" "I was there five days, or until one of the steamers of the Union Navigation Company sailed for Southampton, when I took passage in her. She proved to be the Africa, the very slowest ship of the fleet, and in every way the most uncomfortable ship I was ever in. She is so slow that she is jocularly called the Skimmer of the Seas. The passengers could never tire of making jokes about her speed, and hardly a night passed that some one did not request the captain to hang out a lantern astern to warn off sailing craft which might otherwise have the misfortune to run us down. "So that your voyage to England

proved a long one?" "Such a long one, my dear Mr. Moreland," returned Hillington, "that I arrived in England three days later than I would have done if I had avoided the Africa and taken the next P. & O. steamer. Then I lost a day and a half in London. Had I avoided both of these delays, I could have readily been at The

Elms last Monday!" Radd started imperceptibly as he recalled a fact Mrs. Moreland had stated to Jessie, namely, that the mysterious noises, footsteps, and movements of which she had complained had become particularly noticeable on the preceding Monday. [TO BE CONTINUED. |

It is believed that the hollyhock was

as the year 1573.

THE NEWS.

Mamie Keating, aged seventeen years, died near Allentown, Pa., from blood poisoning caused by a rat's bite. - The First National Bink, at Kankakee, Ill., closed its doors. Assets \$234,000, liabilities \$147,000,-The Pittsburg, Akron and Western Railroad passed into the hands of a receiver .-Thomas and Michael Cornelian were killed, and Wm. Diskin, of Seranton, Pa., was terribly mangled by being struck by an express train near Pittsburg, Pa. - Town Marsha T. J. Blunk and Edward Graham, a tough shot and killed each other in Parkland, near Louisville, Ky. Three robbers at the points of pistols, compelled an express messenger to hand over \$7,500, at Wichita, Kas .-The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions sent a request to Secretary of State Gresham requesting that the government take action in reference to the assault on Miss Anna Melton, a missionary in Asiatic Turkey. Abram Fardon, paying teller of the First National Bank of Patterson, N. J., was arrested, charged with the defa'cation of \$10,500 .-The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will run excur ions to Chicago for its employes

-The Valley road from Cambridge to Mar etta, one hundred miles, has been sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. -At Hamilton, O., the MacNeale & Urban Safe and Lock Company, one of the oldest safe firms in the country, assigned to Howard Douglass, of Cincinnati. Assets \$160,000; liabilities unknown. The H. M. Brown Dry Goods Company, of

Cleveland, O., made an assignment, -- The International Typographical Union had \$30, 00) in the Indianapolis National Bank which failed Tuesday --- Two children of William Caynor, a firmer of Muncie, Ind., fell out of a hay-mow and were instantly killed .- B. S. Lowenthal & Son, and M. L. Levy & Son, wholesale whiskey dealers of Nashville, Tenn., made assignments .- Twenty-seven people were made sick by milk obtained from one dai y in Louisville, Ky .- During & windstorm in Chesterfield county, Va., James A. Jones was killed, and Capias Dillon, seriously injured by a tree falling upon them.

—Fire at Ashland, near Richmond, Va., burned out a number of stores. Total loss about \$30,006, insurance \$12,000. - The forty-seventh anniversy of Liberia's independence was celebrated at the Exposition by the dedication of that country's pavilion in the Agricu tural building .- The annual convention of the North American United Caledonia Association was opened in the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago. convicted in St. Louis of the murder of Ed-

-Jacob Heinze and Henry Kaiser were win E. Brown, a wealthy citizen, on the night of March 2 last .- The failure of H. L. Nicho'as & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, was announced. The firm is composed of H. I. Nicholas, John D. Nicholas, Walter C. Taylor and Marcus Mayer. The firm was considered quite a prominent one in Stock Exchange circles. Two boilers of the Belleville Distilling

Company explode t at St. Louis, tearing the boilerhouse to fragments, and badly wreck ing part of the main building. A portion o one of the boilers was blown a distance of two hundred and fifty feet. Noboly was hurt ; damage \$20,000 .- Prince Yorihito of Japan will shortly visit the United States, --- At Brooklyn, an engineer on the tug G. W. Wright was drewned by a collision with the tug F. W. Vosburgh. - Arbuckle Bros. Ariesa coff e mill, of Brooklyn, which closed down a few days ago, resumed operations on a limited scale.—At Montreal, McDougall's foundry w. s destroyed by fire; 130 men out of work. - The employes of the Clark O. N. T. Thread Company, at Newark, N. J., have been notified to work on short time.-Manufacturers of jewelr, in Plainville, North Attleboro, Attleboro Falls and Attleboro, Mass., have closed their shops, owing to hard times. - A receiver has been appointed for the Wilmington (Del.) Dental Manufacturing Company .- Maud McKibben, a girl aged seventeen, was charged at St. Louis by the coroner with poisoning her parents,-Three men were blown all to pieces by the explosion of a load of nitroglycerine near Pittsburg.

CABLE SPARKS.

THE Russian legation in Washington will be raised to an embassy shorily. THE Northumberland and Durham miners have asked for an increase of wages.

Dr. John Rae, the artic explorer, died in London, after a prolonged illness. THE Maharajah of Toitoi Braga committed

suicide at Brindisi, Italy, by taking poison. THE bark Pinnore won the long-distance ocean race from San Francisco to Queenstown. THE General Credit Company of London

has suspended. The capital of the concern is £100,000. THE Latin Union has agreed that the 21/4 silver franc piece shall be excluded from in-

ternational circulation. A committee has been formed to make preliminary arrangements for an international exhibition in Turin, Italy, in 19 6.

THE Achinese passengers on board a Dutch steamer in East India murdered the captain and 22 of the crew and then escaped. THE United States steamer Enterprise,

which is in commission as the Massachusetts school ship, has arrived at Southampton, THE date of election for members of the French Chamber of Deputies has been fixed for Angust 20th; second ballots to be held on September 3. THE Russian embassy in Paris de-

nies the report that Ru sia intends to dispatch cruisers to Toulon to take part in the naval evolutions that will be held there shortly. THE verdiet of the Victoria court-martial acquitted Captain Bourke and all the sur-

vivous of any responsibility for the disaster,

which was attributed to Vice-Admiral Tryon's

THE closing debate over the Home Rule bill in the House of Commons Committee was marked by a scene which is sail to have been unprecedented in parliamentary history. The disorder started while Joseph Chamberlain was speaking and his remarks were so offensive that Mr O'Connor called him "Judas," and the epithet was taken up the Irish members in chorus Soon a free by light was started in front of the chairman's desk and several members were knocked brought to Europe from China as early down. When peace was restored the bill passed the committee finally.

THE OLD DOMINION.

A Day's Happenings as Told By the Wires.

FATAL WORK BY THE WIND.

The Financial Question-Virginia Blackstone-Cumberland Ad-Justs Her Debt-James

Mays Drowned. A wind storm which assumed almost the roportions of a hurricane passed over Cheserfield county. Trees were uprooted and barns and fencing were leveled to the ground. While the storm was at its height James A. Jones, a well-known citizen of Petersburg, in company with a friend named Capias Dillon, was driving up the turnpike in Chesterfield county, just outside the corporate limits, when a tree was blown down and struck the young men on the head. Jones was killed and Dillon badly injured. Their team consisted of a horse and muld. The latter was caushed to death by the tree, and the horse was tadly injured. The storm was also very severe in Peters-

CHARLOTTESVILLE. - A violent wind, rain and hail storm visited this vicinity. A house on the farm of J. W. Porter was moved several yards by the wind, and a quantity of fencing was destroyed. Lightning struck the new Monticello Guard armory, and a man near-by was shocked. Many trees were

Cumberland Adjusts Her Debt. Counsel from New York and Richmond representing all of the bonds issued by the county of Cumberland in aid of the Farmville and Powbatan railroad had a conference with the new Board of Supervisors of Cumberland county, and an arrangement was made extremely satisfactor; to all parties. Owing to the litigation as to the validity of the bonds, over \$6,000 of past-due coupons and interest thereon wire to be pro

vided for when the Court of Appeals this year affirmed the validity of the bonds. Cumberland county, under the arrange ment, pays this year, and warrants have been issued on the Treasurer therefor, some of which he has raid, about \$4,000, which is some \$1,600 more than the annual interest on the \$40,000 bonds. At this rate the county will get rid very shortly of all

The New York counsel expressed gratification at the promptness of the settlement and the Lu-iness way in which the county is now meeting its obligations.

There are few corporations which such times as these pay one year's interest in full and also manage to reduce arrearages.

Big Blaze at Blackstone, The large and commodious dwelling-house

on Broad street, Blackstone, occupied by Rev. M. F. Sanford, pastor of the Baptist church, and owned by Hon. J. W. Overby, on fire about 8 o'clock, and despite the efforts of the citizens the building was entirely consumed. The loss is \$2,500, with no insurance. Mr. Sanford was not at home. His furniture was saved in a badly damaged

The new dwelling of Mr. J. S. Robertson, on the north si e, also took fire and was completely destroyed. Mr. Robertson succeeded in moving most of his furni ure, on which there was an insurance of \$300. His house was insured for \$800 in the Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company, but this does not cover the loss. These buildings could have been saved but for the searcity of water in that portion of the town. Mrs. Moone, a sister of Mrs. Robertson, who was sick in bed at the time of the fire and had to be removed to a place of safety, is now in a very precarious condition, the excitement having prostrated her.

No Trace of Mrs. Coflin.

The whereabouts of Mrs. J. W. Coflin, w' o disapp ared from her home in Charlottesville are as much of a mystery as on the day of her dfsappearance. A thorough search has been made in the city of Washington, where it was thought by some that she had gone. The opinion seem to be growing that her mind was unbalanced and that she has committed suicide. A party of friends and sympath'zers made a thorough search for the missing lady in the vicinity of the woolen mills, and a large party went to the Rivanna for the purpose of dragging the stream. Mr. Coflin and his sons are still in Washington, but will return and continue the search at Charlottesville, Mr. William Bruin, brother-in-law of Mrs. Coflin, was in Charlottesville but could throw no light on the unfortunate affair. The letter written to him by the missing lady was about busines8 and contained no reference whatever as to

Virginia Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals rendered decisions

in the following cases: Wohlford vs. Trinkle, from Wythe county, decree reversed; opinion by Judge Lewis. Scott vs. Norfolk and Western Railroad, from Tazewell county, judgement affirmed; opiniou by Judge Lacy. Higgenbotham vs. May, from Tazewell county, dec.ee reversed; opinion by Judge Hinton. Norfolk and Western Railroad Company vs. Draper, from Wythe county, judgment affirmed; opinion by Judge Fauntleroy. Rehearings were granted in the following cases: Morrison vs. Wilkinson, Virginia Development Co. vs. Crozier Iron Co., Wood vs. Dicky, Robinson vs. Commercial and Farmers' Bank. The court adjourned after holding the longest session ever held in Wytheville and one of the longest continuous sessions ever held.

The Financial Ouestion.

The members of the State Board of Agriculture, which adjourned after electing a successor of the late President Sutherlin, appear very much in crested in the present financial problems. The body is composed of one member from each of the ten Congressional districts in the State. The gentlemen are supposed to be among the most intel i-

gent and representative agriculturists in Virginia. The views of Mr. S. Wellford Corbin, of Prince George, whose name was at one time prominently mentioned as a candidate for Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, are well-known. He has long advocated an increased volume of currency. These views, it is said, were used against Mr. Corbin to prevent him from securing the appointment

Virginia Legion of Honor.

The Grand Council, Legion of Honor, clesed its session at Ocean View. The folowing officers were elected; past grand commander, T. C. Morton, Staunton; grand commander, W. W. Athey, Leesburg : grand vice-commander, A. W. Now.in, L nehburg; grand orator, W. J. McDowell, Richmond; grand secretary L. C. Davis, Richmond; grand trensurer, Chas. E. Murden, Portsmouth ; grand chaplain, S. H. Raundle, Norfolk + grand guide, E. J. Weymouth, Jay Richmond; grand warden, G. W. Tyson; grand sentry, C. H. Dunt. The grand couneil will n.eet next year in Staunton.

Fell Thirty Feet.

Mr. Rudolph Hawkes, an employee of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, while unloading a car of coal at the chute near Manchester, fell from the scaffold to the ground, a distance of about thirty feet, and was very painfully and seriously injured. He was carried to his home, at the corner of Eleventh and Railroad streets, and Drs. W. P. Matthews and J. M. Whitefield summoned, The physicians found the injured man suffering with the lower part of his back and spine and temporary paralysis of the lower limbs.

New Lodge of Odd-Fellows.

A new lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, known as Columbia Lodge, No. 44, was instituted at the Academy of Music, Norfolk, with 159 members. Grand-Master Thomas N. Kendler, of Richmond, and Grand-Representative James B. Blanks assisted in the work. C. P. Hargrove was installed as noble grand. A banquet folnumber of visitors from other cities were

Gen. Lee's Boots and Coat.

At the request of Colonel Morton Marye, Auditor of Virginia, writes the Washington correspondent of the Alexandria Gazette, Congressman Meredith called upon the Commissioner of Customs at the Treasury Department and obtained an order for the release of a pair of boots and a coat that belonged to General R. E. Lee, now held at the custom-house in New York. They had been s mt abroad to the sculptor of the General's monument, who has returned them.

A Probable Fatal Row.

News reached Pulaski that a row occurred at Bertha, in Wythe county, on the North Carolina extension of the Norfolk and Western railroad; and as the result of it James Cleaves, an employee of the Bertha Zine Company, is dying from effects of wounds received, and J. C. Younce is under arrest, charged with the crime. The weapon used as testified to by his brother was brass knuckles. Other parties engaged have escaped to No:th Carolina. Whiskey was the

cause of it.

Sport Led to Death. James Mays was drowned in the North River below Lexington. He was fishing from a dam for bass and fell off his seat on some rocks under the dam. He was a good swimmer but the fall stunned bim. He is the same young man who shot himself last winter while out hunting by attempting to dislodge a rabbit in a hole with the butt of his gun. He had just recovered from the ef-

fects of the wound.

Probably Fatal Shooting Affray. At the house of Henry Stanley, in the northern part of Basic City, while the colored population was enjoying a dance, a difficulty occurred about 10 o'clock between John Lesley and George Tarey, in which Lesley shot Tarey twice with a pistol. Drs. Austin and Griffith were called in and probed for the balls, but up to this time have not been able to find them. The wound may prove fatal. So far Lesley has evaded the

A Deed of Trust Recorded.

The Hitchcock Trego Land and number Company of Emporia, made a deed of trust a few days since. It conveys all the assets of the company, real and personal, and franchises, etc., to Charles J. Bobbitt as trustee. The amount of the liabilities is not stated. The deed was prepare I by White & Garnett, attorneys, of Norfolk.

Death of Mr. L. Erb.

Mr. L. Erb died at the home of Mr. F. H. Wissler, near Mount Jackson, in Shenandosh county aged eighty-three, Mr. Erb had made his home with Dr. R. W. Stone for several yea s. Two children survive him-Mrs. F. H. Wissler and Mrs. R. W. Stone. His body was i, terred in the family burying grounds at Columbia Fu nace.

The County Board of Supervisors assem bled at Lunenburg Courthouse and reorganized, with Hon. W. C. Winn as chairman, Besides-regular routine business a report

was made to the effect that no small-pox

existed in the vicinity of Lunenburg county.

No Small-Pox in Lunenburg.

Serious Accident to a Child. Harve; Snellings, the five-year-old son of H. W. Snellings, of Danville, fell from the. shed of a barn on his father's lot to the ground, a distance of fifteen feet, breaking his leg between the thigh and knee. The injury is very serious.

A Young Lady Killed by Lightning. During a severe storm Miss Rosa Mayo was struck by lightning at her father's home in Cumberland county, and was instantly killed. The young lady was a daughter of Dr. A. A. Mayo.